

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 66
By Graves

A RESOLUTION to honor and salute singer-songwriter and country music star, Roy Drusky, on his remarkable career.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who through their extraordinary efforts have distinguished themselves as entertainers of whom we have all grown fond and whose art has heightened our aesthetic sensitivity; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy individual is Roy Drusky, who was born in Atlanta, Georgia, to Laverne and Roy Frank Druschky; and

WHEREAS, though Roy Drusky always loved to sing, even as a child, it wasn't until he was in the U. S. Navy that he began to play the guitar; in 1948, he bought a guitar and taught himself to play; and

WHEREAS, upon leaving the Navy in 1950, Mr. Drusky enrolled at Emory University to study Veterinary Science, earning his tuition monies through singing engagements; and

WHEREAS, while in college, Roy Drusky experienced his first taste of fame, forming a country band called "Southern Ranch Boys"; the group performed daily on the radio and weekly on television; and

WHEREAS, after leaving Emory, Mr. Drusky moved to Minnesota, became a Disc Jockey and continued singing in clubs while he focused on establishing a songwriting career; and

WHEREAS, in 1958, Faron Young gave Roy Drusky his initial break into the industry, recording “Alone With You,” which became Mr. Drusky’s first number one country hit and launched his songwriting career; and

WHEREAS, Roy Drusky received the coveted invitation to become a regular member of the illustrious Grand Ole Opry on June 13, 1958; and

WHEREAS, upon moving to Nashville, Mr. Drusky signed a recording contract with Decca Records, under the guidance of which he enjoyed remarkable success; in 1963, he moved to Mercury Records and continued to record hit singles, including the number one album, “Yes, Mr. Peters” and the top ten hit, “If the Whole World Stopped Loving”; and

WHEREAS, in the 1960s, Roy Drusky made a brief foray into the world of acting, appearing in four country western films: *Forty-Acre Feud*, *Golden Guitar*, *Las Vegas Hillbillies* and *White Lightning Express*; he even hosted his own television show, called “The Dixie Jubilee”; and

WHEREAS, for the next two decades, Mr. Drusky toured extensively, performing in venues across the United States, as well as in England, Holland, Turkey, Ireland, Germany, Italy and Scotland; and

WHEREAS, having branched out into gospel music in the 1990s, today, Roy Drusky’s focus is on recording country and southern gospel albums with the Chapel/Bridge label; he also performs gospel concerts nationwide with evangelist Kenneth Cox; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Drusky was inducted into the Georgia Hall of Fame in 2002, an indication of the extraordinary impact this entertainer has had on audiences around the globe; and

WHEREAS, often called the “Velvet Voice”, Roy Drusky continues to earn the respect of his fellow musicians with his astonishing talent; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Drusky is wholly committed to perpetuating the highest standards of family and community values and is a devout Christian, evincing his faith in private and public endeavors alike; and

WHEREAS, his manifold professional accomplishments aside, Roy Drusky is most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife of 46 years, Bobby Swafford; together, they are the proud parents of Roy Frank III and his wife, Diana; Tracy Alan and his wife, Heather; and Darel Byron and his wife, Tina; and loving grandparents of Roy Frank IV, Emmylou, Tristin and Tanner; and

WHEREAS, Roy Drusky epitomizes the passion, spirit and perseverance that are characteristic of a true musician; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Roy Drusky for his remarkable abilities as a musician and his dedication to excellence and creativity in entertainment; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend Roy Drusky on his outstanding career in the music industry and extend to him our wishes for his continued success in every endeavor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.